

## REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1 through 20 are pending, with Claim 1 being independent. Claims 1 through 20 were allowed. Claim 1 has been amended.

Claim 1 recites, inter alia, producing, between the fourth mirror and the fifth mirror, an intermediate image of a pattern of the reticle.

Applicant respectfully submits that WO 02/048796 fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-discussed claimed feature as recited, inter alia, in Claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that WO 02/048796 discloses that an intermediate image is produced between the second surface and the third surface.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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